

Palestinians protest house demolitions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Hundreds of Palestinians gathered Tuesday to protest plans to demolish homes, saying Israeli promises of equal treatment of all city residents were worthless. "It is very clear that Ehud Olmert (the mayor), and the government of Israel are planning to kick us out of this city," said Jeban Salaymeh of Jerusalem's Ras Al Amoud neighbourhood. He stood with other demonstrators outside Orient House in East Jerusalem, itself a target of Israeli anger at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters, to protest and attempt to demolish his 1987 house. Mr. Salaymeh said he was shocked when he read in the newspaper that his home will be demolished because it lacks a license because one was issued retroactively. Last week the municipality said it planned to demolish Arab homes in East Jerusalem built illegally. A Palestinian human rights group says that about 50 Arab homes are torn down in Jerusalem annually. They said 50,000 Palestinians have been forced to move outside the municipal boundaries because they could not get adequate housing.

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Majali to reshuffle Cabinet today

10 MPs expected to join government, with anticipated change in around 15 portfolios

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali is today expected to introduce a major government reshuffle that will lead to the inclusion of up to 10 deputies in the Cabinet and bring in Senator Thoqan Al Hindawi as deputy prime minister, informed sources said.

The sources said that Dr. Majali has not yet decided on the final composition of his new government, but confirmed that the reshuffle would include up to 15 portfolios.

They said that the decision to include members of the Lower House in the Cabinet was made in the late hours of Tuesday despite an earlier decision to exclude them.

Parliamentary sources said that the major blocs at the House will be represented in the new Cabinet but the Islamic Action Front (IAF) will remain in the opposition.

They said the centrist Democratic Progressive Coalition (DPC) will be represented in the Cabinet by four members, the National Action Front (NAF) headed by Abdul Hadi Al Majali two, and the Jordan National Alliance (JNA) will be represented by its President Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh. The Independent Islamic Bloc (IIB) was expected to be represented by Deputy Awad Khleifat.

According to the sources, the following deputies agreed to enter the government by late Tuesday:

Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh

(JNA) as minister of state for parliamentary affairs.

Aref Bataineh (DPC), minister of health;

Samir Kawar (DPC), water;

Saleh Israhebat (DPC), youth

Mansour Ben Tarif, education

Awad Khleifat (IIB), education

Ratib Al Saoud (NAF), social development

NAF members Abdul Majid Al Azzam and Abdul Baqi Jammo were also expected to join the Cabinet but it was not clear which portfolios will be assigned to them.

The sources said that legal advisor at the Prime Ministry, Hisham Al Tel, was expected to become minister of justice, and Mohammad Thneibat, head of the public administra-

tion institute, was said to head a new cabinet portfolio, the Civil Service Ministry.

Head of the Audit Bureau Adel Al Qudah, Housing Bank Chairman Zuhair Khouri and university professor Mohidine Touq were also expected to be in Dr. Majali's new team.

Deputy Abdul Karim Al Kabariti was reportedly offered the key portfolio of foreign minister but had not given his answer by the time the Jordan Times went to print.

The sources said, however, that the deputies joining the government were told they were chosen as individuals and not in their capacity as representatives of parliamentary blocs.

The ministers who expected to leave the Cabinet were:



Abdul Salam Majali

Jordan, Israel to form border demarcation panel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Jordan and Israel agreed here Tuesday to set up a commission to resolve their border dispute, and agreed in principle to construct a road linking Israel, Jordan and Egypt.

The agreement came after two days of talks here which U.S. special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross described as "a very productive and very useful meeting."

The trilateral talks also agreed common agendas for talks in a number of areas ranging from border security to water and the environment, Mr. Ross told a press conference.

Talks on the various issues will begin in the Middle East region next month.

"The accomplishment of this session has surpassed expectations," the head of the Jordanian delegation, ambassador to Washington Fayed Tarawneh

said. "This accord sets a framework for bilateral cooperation for the purpose of establishing peace and stability."

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, told reporters. He made the remarks after signing the framework cooperation agreement with Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu.

Mr. Kaddoumi started a visit to this ex-communist Balkan state on Tuesday, at the head of a senior PLO delegation.

Earlier in the day he had talks with Romanian President Ion Iliescu.

500 feared dead in Colombia quake

BOGOTA (AFP) — At least 500 people were missing after a landslide swept down on the town of Toes, the governor of the southern province of Huila said Tuesday. The landslide triggered a strong earthquake Monday evening, but there was no immediate word of the extent of the damage from the remote area, governor Enrique Ortiz said. The authorities have confirmed only two deaths and 23 injured in the earthquake which measured six on the open-ended Richter scale.

Fighting erupts in Afghan provinces

KABUL (AFP) — Heavy fighting has erupted in west and east Afghanistan between forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani and a rival alliance trying to topple his regime, according to travellers arriving here Tuesday. The travellers said the situation was "very tense" in Shakardara, 30 kilometres north of Kabul after one of Mr. Rabbani's key commanders changed sides and established secret links with the Hezb-e-Islami faction of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. They said the highway linking Kabul with the nearby river port of Hairatan was cut early Tuesday and drivers were avoiding Shakardara.

water, energy and the environment to negotiate some of the most difficult issues between the two countries.

An agreement in principle on the utility of constructing a road to link the Red Sea ports of Aqaba and Eilat with each other and with Egypt.

A decision to move bilateral negotiations on these matters to Israel and Jordan in July.

A decision to begin work of a draft to outline future trade and economic relations.

A decision to invite Palestinians to discuss cooperation in trade, finance and banking.

The United States will merge Jordanian and Israeli papers on comprehensive development of the Jordan Valley into an umbrella master plan.

They agreed to convene a special sub-committee on tourism.

They agreed to designate one official from each side to coordinate on a "transboundary cultural heritage park" in the valley.

Dr. Tarawneh stressed that the Israeli-Jordanian aspect of the peace talks had "lagged behind in the past four to five months" since the two sides agreed a common agenda for talks in September, noting that no discussions had since

(Continued on page 5)

Yemeni truce shattered, north closes in on Aden

Combined agency dispatches

NORTHERN YEMEN (Agencies) — There were heavy artillery exchanges as southern forces tried to halt the tank offensive.

The ceasefire was announced unilaterally by Mr. Saleh's government late Monday under growing international pressure following last week's U.N. Security Council resolution demanding a halt to the fighting.

The ceasefire in the war raging since May 5 took effect at midnight Monday but shelling resumed six hours later and the thunder of artillery fire echoed around Aden, capital of the self-declared Yemen Democratic Republic.

In Geneva, Dr. Ghali called on the two parties to respect a new ceasefire and expressed concern at the worsening situation in Aden.

The north and south should "return immediately to negotiations which would permit a peaceful resolution of their differences and the restoration of peace and stability," he said.

His special envoy, former Algerian Minister Brahimi, left Geneva and stopped over in Cairo en route to Sanaa, where he was expected to open talks on Wednesday.

A southern officer, Lieutenant Mohammad Hussein, told AFP at the front line near Aden that the Sanan authorities had used the ceasefire to mass troops and tanks in pre-

paration for the dawn advance.

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(Continued on page 5)

part of the city expressed dismay at the short-lived ceasefire. Hundreds of people returned to queuing in front of wells, petrol stations and bakeries.

"It's a war against civilians," said Abdullah Maysur, a 46-year-old mechanic who was queuing at a well. "Look how we're suffering." Abul Kader Arrak, 56, shouted at reporters.

Aden was left without drinking water three days ago after northern troops shelled a pumping station at Bir Nasser, 15 kilometres from the city.

Six storage tanks at the south's only oil refinery at little Aden just outside the city continued to burn Tuesday, two days after northern air raids.

On the political battlefield, the government in Sanaa said it was still ready to implement a ceasefire if southern forces stopped attacking northern troops.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Bassandawa told reporters: "We will abide by ceasefire the moment the mutineers stop firing at our forces."

The southern air force and navy attacked northern positions around Aden, and southern warplanes also attacked oil installations in Marib, northeastern Yemen, and a town on the Saudi border, he said.

In Cairo, Haidar Abu Bakr

(Continued on page 5)

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Hindawi to become deputy premier

Deputy Prime Minister Saeed Al Tel;

Minister of Transport Adeeb Halash;

Minister of Public Works Abdul Razzaq Ensour;

Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz;

Minister of Water Hisham Al Khatab;

Minister of State Ahmad Al Aqaiyah;

Minister of Culture Mahmoud Ameen;

Minister of Agriculture Mahdi Al Farhan;

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour;

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Middle East News

Palestinian police impose PLO law, jail first Palestinian

By Said Ghazali
The Associated Press

KHAN YUNIS, Gaza Strip — Ibrahim Al Hindi had spent four years in prison for stoning Israeli soldiers. Now he is behind bars again, this time in a Palestinian lockup for assaulting a Palestinian policeman.

The 35-year-old father of six was the first Palestinian to be sentenced by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) courts in the newly autonomous Gaza Strip.

Mr. Hindi got a six-month sentence in jail for assaulting a police officer. He ripped the shirt off a Palestinian policeman after the officer sprayed him with tear-gas during an argument at a checkpoint.

His brother Nafez who was with him at the time also received a six-month sentence under a legal code used by Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction to control its scattered guerrilla forces in Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Libya and elsewhere.

"It's unjust," Ibrahim Hindi said in an interview in his jail cell. "They used the Fatah law of 1979, and they shouldn't until we understand it."

In the Gaza Strip, Egypt preserved British mandate laws while it controlled the area from 1948 to 1967. Israel inherited the system, adding its own modifications via military orders.

"We don't accept the occupation amendments to the law. We don't accept the occupation laws here," said Ahmad Mubayyad, senior prosecutor for the southern coastal district. "The PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people, and its laws apply to all the Palestinians."

In particular, he said, the PLO was free to impose whatever laws it wished in cases involving PLO police. "We are implementing our Fatah law only on the police and this doesn't need the endorsement of the other side," Mr.

The police barracks and pris-

Mubayyad said.

Mr. Arafat last month drew Israeli protests when he instructed civil and religious courts in the autonomous zones to start operating according to laws in force prior to June 1967 when Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel rejected the unilateral move as a violation of the PLO-Israel agreement saying only the Palestinian authority had legislative powers and any changes in the legal code were subject to Israeli review.

Mr. Mubayyad, who left his home in the West Bank in 1973 and served with the PLO in Yemen, Algeria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Iraq, said the judicial system would be judged on whether it played favourites.

Even if Mr. Hindi was a loyal PLO activist who had suffered under Israeli occupation, "this doesn't mean he should be pardoned if he broke the law," said Mr. Mubayyad.

The Hindi brothers were sentenced Friday to six months in prison for assault.

This is a light sentence. We took into consideration that he was a former militant, he resisted the occupiers. He could have been sentenced to three years," said prison director Major Mohammad Tito.

Mr. Tito added that the courts are open to the public, a change from the Israeli military courts which often held closed-door trials, particularly involving serious security cases.

There are 18 prisoners currently being held in the Khan Yunis prison, awaiting trial on charges including car theft, rape, resisting arrest and murder.

The PLO police gave the prisoners their first pay checks and to their surprise it was \$450, double what they were making in Yemen. Mr. Mubayyad, 40, whose wife and three children are still in Yemen, was clearly delighted. It was his first salary in his cramped cell.

The police barracks and pris-

on were used by Israel as the headquarters of its military government in the city. Some Hebrew signs remain, including one that read "Silence please."

Mr. Mubayyad, reading from a file, said that on Sunday a Palestinian shot six times in the legs and arms gave a statement to police from his hospital bed, saying four masked men tried to abduct him and shot him when he fled.

Masked vigilantes have been responsible for hundreds of killings of fellow Arabs in recent years, most accused of being informants for Israel. In all, 824 Palestinians have been killed by other Palestinians as alleged collaborators since the start of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987.

"Even if he is a collaborator it doesn't mean that the activists can take the law into their own hands. We have only one authority," he said. "It is not their job to punish him, even if he is a collaborator."

Mr. Mubayyad indicated the police were poised to round up weapons from local guerrillas who are not part of the official security apparatus.

"Now, we are waiting orders from Arafat to collect weapons," he said.

Over 1,000 Palestinian police live in cramped quarters at the former Israeli army base in this town. Mr. Mubayyad shares his room with five other officers, who share two beds and a broken closet. For the first 18 days in Gaza, the financially strapped Palestinian police survived on donations. But things have started to look up.

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Barzani proposes U.N. protectorate

SALAHEDDIN, Iraq (Agencies) — Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani proposed here Monday that Iraqi Kurdistan be turned into a U.N. protectorate to restore peace, following a month of war between rival factions.

Mr. Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), acknowledged in an interview with AFP that the "50-50 arrangement" of sharing power with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) had failed.

"I have had the idea, but now I speak privately not as the leader of the KDP, that we should ask the U.N. to turn Iraqi Kurdistan into a U.N. protectorate in order to demilitarise and stabilise the region," he said.

Mr. Barzani called for armed U.N. forces, not just observers.

The KDP and Jalal Talabani's PUK have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war, under the protection of Western warplanes. Parliamentary elections were held in May 1992.

But fierce fighting between rival factions broke out in early May and have since claimed more than 600 lives, according to the Iraqi opposition.

"These clashes were the worst event in my whole life. I felt so embarrassed that I couldn't talk to the press directly," Mr. Barzani said.

"We did fail and we have to admit that," he said at his headquarters in the mountain town of Saladin, referring to the joint PUK-KDP control of Iraqi Kurdistan.

"Although I forbade my

fighters from fighting until the very moment they had to defend themselves, I couldn't prevent the killing and looting. We couldn't stop this stupid and suicidal war," he said.

The Security Council brings together Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, Chief of General Staff General Dogan Gures and other senior officials.

The ultimate decision on whether to permit the 75 U.S., British and French aircraft to remain at a southern Turkish base will be taken by parliament before the end of this month.

Fighting flares

Fighting between the two main Iraqi Kurdish factions flared anew Tuesday in the five-week-old civil war in northern Iraq and neighbouring Iran was accused of stepping up its involvement in the conflict.

Spokesman for the groups said the clashes were continuing around Qala Diza, 100 kilometres east of Erbil, seat of the government of the quasi-independent enclave established by the U.S.-led alliance after the 1991 Gulf war.

The Turkish National Security Council, led by President Suleyman Demirel, said "the current situation in the region" calls for a continuation of the force's mandate. It did not give a specific time frame, but suggested "an appropriate period."

The Security Council has only an advisory role, but it is highly influential.

The Western planes have

monitored the treatment of Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf war in early 1991. The western planes take daily reconnaissance flights in the no-fly zone in northern Iraq.

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An accounts officer (left) from the Palestinian police force pays the salary to a policeman in the on Tuesday. The (AFP photo)

Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation goes on air

JERICHO (AP) — Palestinian television has gone on the air for the first time, broadcasting a test card, although the transmission was hampered by the fact that it came from one of the lowest spots on earth.

The Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) for radio and television put out a trial television transmission late Monday beamed from a converted hotel.

The corporation's circular logo, bearing the letters PBC in English, followed by the name in Arabic and the Palestinian flag on the side, was to appear on television screens for 24 hours.

The initial transmission covered Jericho only, and was beamed from a hotel which has been turned into a press centre for the visit of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, expected here later this month.

As technicians connected cables and put up giant aerials on the roof, painters and carpenters were hurriedly renovating the 30-room building which has been closed to the public.

At a cost of around \$1 million, the television centre's main function will be to cover Mr. Arafat's visit. Transmissions to the rest of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be ready within a week, technicians promised.

After Mr. Arafat's visit is over, the station will continue to operate as a relay for the permanent broadcasting centre, the location of which is at the centre of a dispute between Israel and the PLO.

The Palestinians want to set it up in the Israeli-occupied town of Ramallah, also on the West Bank, where pre-1967 Jordanian centre stands. But

The final straw, she said, was the manner in which Clinton dented a commutation, "saying that Jonathan is too dangerous to shave even a minute off his sentence."

Speaking at a midtown synagogue, Mrs. Pollard said she and her husband had decided to make their marriage public so that she could speak for him to try to rouse public condemnation of his treatment.

Mohammad Abdullah Al Khilawi, in a statement released by his lawyers, said he wrote an urgent letter on May 17 to the crown prince and other top Saudi officials after he "learned through secret documents... of positive proof of human rights violations in his

maximum-security penitentiary in Marion, Illinois.

Mrs. Pollard, 38, a resident of Tornoto, said she had known Mr. Pollard in the past and they "reconnected" about four years ago.

Saudi diplomat fears for his life after protesting regime

NEW YORK (AP) — A member of the Saudi Arabian mission to the United Nations went into hiding Monday because he said he feared for his life after speaking out against human rights violations in his country.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian businessmen to tour E. Europe

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A group of 20 Palestinian businessmen is due to fly to Poland on Tuesday to spend two weeks looking for business opportunities in Eastern Europe, the group's organizer said. Hanna Simiora said the businessmen would attend a trade fair in Poland, then visit the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania. "These countries could provide materials such as cement, iron, steel and wood that will be needed to rebuild the Palestinian infrastructure," said Mr. Simiora, who is chairman of the European Palestinian Chamber of Commerce. International donors have promised at least \$2.4 billion to rebuild the Palestinian economy to back the autonomy agreement with Israel. PLO officials would not be travelling with the group. Mr. Simiora said. Many Palestinian economists see the Eastern European countries as more natural trading partners for the developing Palestinian economy than the industrialized Western states.

Qatar firm to set up ferry services in Gulf

DOHA (R) — Qatar plans to introduce a ferry service for cars and passengers between Doha, Bahrain and Dubai ports from October, a Qatar shipping company official said. The company's chairman, Abdul Aziz Salat, told its first annual shareholders meeting on Sunday that it finalized contracting arrangements with Britain's Sea Containers Ltd to charter a vessel that can carry 431 passengers and 85 cars. He said details like safe loading, unloading of vehicles and the frequency of the service were still being discussed. He said the company's board of directors had decided to acquire four second-hand ships at a cost of around \$15 million in the near future to transport crude oil, liquefied petroleum gas, iron ore, petrochemicals and other cargoes.

Sikorsky seeks sell helicopters Gulf

DUBAI (AP) — The U.S. Sikorsky aircraft company is bidding to sell its S-70 Seahawk helicopter to the United Arab Emirates to help combat Iranian submarines. Sikorsky officials told reporters Monday that negotiations with the Defence Ministry began more than a year ago. "We see the Middle East as a good market and there's a lot of potential for Sikorsky," said Hank van Gorder, the company's Middle East marketing manager. The S-70 variant used by the U.S. Army, the UH-60 Black Hawk, played a key role on the 1991 Gulf war. More than 400 were used on a wide range of military and naval missions as troop transports, electronic jammers, gunships. Hawk variants also have an anti-submarine role, which is a capability Arab Gulf states are seeking to counter Iran's acquisition of three Russian Kilo-class attack submarines. The SH-60B, the U.S. Navy variant of the S-70, carries sonars for detecting submarines, along with torpedoes and depth charges. So far, the Islamic Republic is the only state in the region with submarines.

Egypt rights group slams military trials

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian human rights group on Monday expressed its concern at the continued use of military courts to try suspected militants and called on the Egyptian government to ensure defendants' legal rights. The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) made its statement a day after 17 militants accused of trying to kill the interior minister appeared before military judges. If convicted, the men could face the death penalty. "EOHR's concerns are exacerbated due to the fact that defendants in military courts are denied, by the provisions of military law, their right to appeal to a higher court," the group said. "This point becomes all the more serious considering the increasing frequency of death sentences issued by military courts in these cases of militants," it added.

Bomb in Iranian town market hurts 3

NICOSIA (R) — A bomb blast in a market in the southeastern Iranian town of Zahedan injured three people and shattered nearby windows on Monday, Iran's official IRNA news agency said. IRNA said "a relatively powerful sound bomb" went off in the town's central market and local officials were investigating. In March two bombs went off in Zahedan, near the Pakistani border, and an Iranian newspaper said they were set off by a Pakistan-based Sunni Muslim militant group. Iran's population is about 90 per cent Shiite Muslim, with Sunnis living mostly in various border provinces. Zahedan residents said in February that police triggered a riot there while trying to quell a protest by armed men over the destruction of a Sunni mosque in the northern city of Mashhad.

Saudi diplomat fears for his life after protesting regime

private suite at the Watergate Hotel, he said. "Based upon my experience, I understood this to be an attempt to kidnap me and return me to Saudi Arabia for the treatment accorded to vocal opponents of the regime," Mr. Khilewi wrote.

He said he delayed responding and was met by a Saudi intelligence officer who offered to buy his silence before threatening his life and lives of his family in New York and in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Khilewi said he could not comment on speculation that Mr. Khilewi had asked the United States for asylum.

"We're not prepared to comment this at this point," Mr. Khilewi said.

Saudi Arabia's U.N. mission was closed for the night and senior diplomats could not be reached for comment.

Saudi diplomats at the United Nations, could not be reached for comment late Monday.

Market prices

Upper price in £s per kg.	

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U.S. ambassador urges private sector to form new trade partnerships abroad

By Elias Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan Tuesday urged the Kingdom's business community to take the initiative in forming new trade partnerships abroad and help promote the country's economy.

It is important that the private sector seize the opportunity of the coming peace and try to help Jordan benefit from the fruits of stability by launching serious efforts in trade and by helping towards removing all trade restrictions, said Mr. Egan at a luncheon hosted at the Inter-Continental Hotel by the Amman Rotary Club.

He added that it is incumbent upon the private sector to help the country's drive towards privatisation and attracting new investments as part of the general drive towards stimulating the national economy.

Pointing to concerns of U.S. administration and Congress that the U.S. was annually losing between \$12 and \$15 billion due to violations of intellectual property rights, the ambassador said U.S. firms and businesspersons are encouraged to do business in areas where there are safeguards against such violations.

Referring to U.S. aid to Jordan this year, Mr. Egan said he expected agreement would be reached for a \$28 million grant to the Kingdom which will be utilised to promote cultural, developmental and environmental resources management.

This year also, Washington is supplying \$13 million within the Commodity Import Programme (CIP) and \$14 million for the Services Sector Reform Programme in the form of grants, and another \$15 million in concessional loans within its Food Assistance Programme, said the ambassador.

The CIP was established in 1985 to provide financing to Jordan's public and private



U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan, Amman Rotary Club President Suleiman Al

Far and Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Irmecilik (left to right) on the dais of the luncheon hosted by the club Tuesday.

sector importers to enable them to import manufactured goods and raw materials necessary to Jordan's economic development.

Mr. Egan said his country would continue to provide support to the government of Jordan to help it develop the national economy, promote its tourism industry and help conduct archaeological excavations, as well as support the Kingdom's efforts to reschedule its foreign debt.

Commenting on remarks by Amman Rotary Club President Suleiman Al Far and rotary members and guests on the Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian lands and water issues, Mr. Egan said both of these issues have to be settled through the multilateral and bilateral phases of the Arab-Israeli peace negotia-

nian government and the London-based Lloyd's Register agency were conducting negotiations to observe the enforcement of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Referring directly to the embargo on Iraq, Mr. Egan said that he did not expect it to be lifted soon.

The sanctions continues to be reexamined by the Security Council every 60 days, in order to determine when they can be lifted, he added. The ambassador said that not a single member of the 13-member council has yet formally requested the lifting of the sanctions.

The luncheon was attended by the Turkish ambassador to Jordan and the chargé d'affaires of South Africa in Amman among prominent businesspersons and other guests.

On the issue of trade via Aqaba, he said he was encouraged by reports that the Jordani-

NHF to start training Iranian delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — After being accredited by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a regional training centre for the Eastern Mediterranean region, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) will Wednesday organise a 10-day training programme for an Iranian delegation, according to an NHF statement.

The programme will be attended by Iranian experts in health and development as well as QOL project employees. Other training programmes will be held at the end of this month for delegations from Iran and Egypt.

The success of the Jordanian experience is represented through the basic development achievements realised by the QOL project in the beneficiary villages which witnessed an improvement in housing and health conditions, women literacy, motherhood and child health care and increase in income, said the statement.

It includes lectures and workshops on the philosophy and strategy of the BMN

NMC to present its own in song recital, concert

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Music Conservatory (NMC)/Noor Al Hussein Foundation will present a recital by soprano Lexi Haddadin accompanied by pianist Samia Ghannoun and violinist Alla Rozumiak at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

The programme includes songs and lyrics by Brahms, Schubert, Puccini, Strauss, Mozart and others.

Lexi Haddadin studied voice at Augustina College, in North Dakota, U.S., where she participated in several recitals, choirs and music theatre performances.

Samia Ghannoun studied piano in Amman and continued her studies at the British Royal School of Music. She is a faculty member at the National

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King confers medal on Chilean envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday conferred upon outgoing Chilean Ambassador Nelson Haddad Heresi the Istiklal Medal of the First Order on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Jordan. The medal was presented to Mr. Haddad by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan at a special lunch banquet held in his honour. Mr. Heresi leaves Amman to become Santiago's ambassador to Egypt.

Princess Sarvath receives Ambassador Foundation team

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath received Tuesday at the Royal Court a representative of the Ambassador Foundation of the United States and a delegation of American volunteers who have been working at the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) and at the Amman Baccalaureate School. Princess Sarvath thanked the U.S. foundation for the work of its volunteers.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FLIGHT FOR LIFE ACTIVITIES

- ★ Lecture: "Wings Over Jordan," by Judy Leden of the microlight team, on Thursday at the British Council at 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Fund-raising dinner for the Cancer Research Campaign, sponsored by Royal Jordanian at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Thursday at 8:30 p.m., tickets JD 20.
- ★ Open Day Flying: with the microlight team of world champions and the Royal Jordanian Gliding Club, on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets JD 5.
- ★ Oud Recital: by Munir Bashir at the Royal Cultural Centre, Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Tickets JD 5.
- ★ Proceeds will go to support the work of the Cancer Research Campaign.
- For information call Royal Jordanian Gliding Club 891401 (253) or Friends of Archaeology 696782.

RECITAL

- ★ National Music Conservatory Orchestra, at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

WORLD CUP USA 1994

- ★ Arabic language video series of World Cup football matches entitled "World Cup USA 1994" at the American Center auditorium (4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.).

FILM

- ★ Film in English entitled "Gilda" at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 695291).

10 groups formed to draft papers for Beijing conference on women

By Rana Husseini

AMMAN — Ten groups were formed Tuesday at a preparatory national conference on Jordan's participation in the International Women's Conference scheduled for September 1995 in Beijing.

Addressing more than 200 delegates from various institutions, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who will head the Kingdom's delegation to Beijing, said the country's participation is essential and "hopefully both the public and official representatives will help reflect a positive image of Jordan."

Princess Basma had earlier announced the formation of an executive office that will act as a link between the various bodies, official and non-official, that will participate in the 1995 world gathering. The Princess had also announced that Shadia Nusseir, of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), will head the executive office.

Mrs. Nusseir told the Jordan Times Tuesday that this is the first non-governmental organisation activity in preparation for the Beijing conference, and it aimed at encouraging public involvement.

"We have divided the topics

to 10 issues and divided the participants to 10 groups to discuss the relevant papers,

and each group came up with certain recommendations," Ms. Nusseir said.

In Tuesday's meeting these groups split up to discuss topics to be included in Jordan's national paper to the Beijing conference.

One such topic was women's rights in Jordan and trying to locate the obstacles that pre-



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday addresses a national preparatory conference for the 1995 International Women's Conference in Beijing. On the podium are

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women and Shadia Nusseir of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (Photo by Rana Husseini)

vent women from obtaining their full rights.

Another group discussed human rights from an international perspective and tried to evaluate the status of human rights in Jordan.

Participants also suggested focusing on women's status in the Kingdom in terms of improving women's education, training women and providing health and social programmes for their benefit.

In the small business sector, participants suggested evaluating women's working role in Jordan and studying the obstacles to women in or planning to join the labour force.

At the international level, participants demanded more importance on women's role in international affairs and also discussed women's political future in Jordan.

Participants suggested studying women's social, economic, health and educational status and ways to improve it.

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW), said Jordan's participation in the 1995 conference will help explain Jordanian women's status and expand public awareness of the importance of supporting women's affairs.

The 10 committees established Tuesday, she said, will

aid in listing the priorities to be adopted in the U.N. Agenda for the 1996-2000 period.

The participating groups concluded the meeting with each submitting suggestions and recommendations for the forum that will be presented to the September 1995 conference.

According to Ms. Nusseir, another two conferences on the regional level will be held in November. One will be for the countries of the region in coordination with the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCA) and the second for non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Germany helps water authority study distribution network

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Water Authority is conducting a wide-ranging study on water distribution networks in the Greater Amman region with financial assistance from the German government, according to Qusai Oteishat, the Water Authority director.

He told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the German government is conducting the study and providing the experts as a grant. Later the authority will implement a JD 30 million project over four to five years to "rehabilitate the water network" in order to minimise water losses from faulty pipes.

The project will also entail the installation of a network for channelling waste water from Ein Ghazal in east Amman to the Khirbet Al Samra waste water treatment plant near Zarqa, according to Mr. Oteishat.

The project study grant is being provided by the German Development Bank, said Mr. Oteishat, who returned Monday evening from a visit to Germany where he held related talks with bank officials.

According to a working paper submitted by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to a symposium on water management organised in Amman last November, more than half of Jordan's production of water for domestic purposes goes unaccounted for, thus posing one of the most serious problems facing water management in the Kingdom.

The paper cited leakage, illegal usage, unmetered deliveries and human error as the main causes of unaccounted water.

The Water Authority will finance the maintenance and rehabilitation project through its own means and loans obtained from different sources, said Mr. Oteishat.

He said that during the week-long visit to Germany he toured several waste water treatment plants to study their systems and discussed with the water authority in Nuremberg the prospect of "twinning" that authority with Amman's in a concept to pave the ground for mutual cooperation in water related affairs.

Chief justice approves pre-marriage blood tests

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health has acquired the approval of the office of the Chief Islamic Justice in Amman to draft regulations requiring certain couples planning to marry, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said Tuesday.

Chief Justice Sheikh Izzedin Al Khaitab Al Tamimi informed the health minister that his office approved the measure as it does not conflict with religious beliefs.

Dr. Malhas told the Jordan Times that the ministry will start drawing up the necessary regulations immediately.

The regulations require the approval of the Council of Ministers, but no endorsement is required from Parliament as it does not constitute a law, he explained.

In an earlier statement to the Jordan Times, Dr. Malhas said the proposed regulations would require couples to undergo blood tests before their nuptials to determine if either partner suffers from any blood disease and other genetic problems that could result in their children being born with congenital malformations or retardation.

The minister said that he was enlisting the help of the office of the chief justice concerning the ministry's intentions to issue the regulations before taking the next move.

According to Dr. Malhas, no proper survey has been conducted in the Kingdom determining the causes of congenital malformations or retardation. But he cited intermarriages and blood diseases as two major factors that could result in the delivery of disabled children.

After the regulations have been published and implemented, couples planning to marry will be required to obtain a certificate showing the results of the blood tests from the Ministry of Health.

The certificate will determine what kind of birth defects (if any) could be expected and any other blood diseases either partner might have.

Air transport workers union member denies she resigned from presidency

By Karonza M. Jadoune

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Sou'a Bakir, recently elected president of the Air Transport Workers Union (ATWU), has denied reports in the local media that she resigned her post at the union.

"I was against the idea, yet eight of the 11 (administrative committee) members thought that another vote should be conducted," said Mr. Salem.

Ms. Bakir, who won the ATWU presidency with an overwhelming 697 votes against the second highest recipient with 458 votes, said that the installation of Abdul Halim Khaddam as the new president is illegal, and she refuses to accept what she described as an attempt to belittle her and Jordanian women.

According to Article 84 of the union's regulations, the administrative committee has the right to change administrative posts by calling for a new election whenever it deems necessary, provided the proposed change is on the agenda distributed to union members three days prior to their next scheduled meeting.

According to administrative committee member Nabil Salem, union members met in mid-May and approved the administrative committee's proposal to hold

new elections.

On May 28 ATWU members again cast ballots for the union's president, said Mr. Salem. According to Mr. Salem, Ms. Bakir obtained only one vote in the second election.

"I was against the idea, yet eight of the 11 (administrative committee) members thought that another vote should be conducted," said Mr. Salem.

He stressed, however, that Ms. Bakir was among those who favoured a new election.

"The whole process was perfectly legal," he said.

Ms. Bakir said the problem is that union members do not want a woman to preside over them.

She has contacted the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) to discuss the matter but has received no response yet.

Mr. Khaddam, however, denied Ms. Bakir's charges of sexism and said that she lacked experience in union work.

Mr. Khaddam said that Ms. Bakir agreed to give her bloc of votes to the Al Atta'

but that this was the wish of the majority of the administrative committee.

"It's good to have women in the union, but also it's democracy," Mr. Salem added.

According to Ms. Bakir there is disorganisation in the union.

"Members cannot agree on anything. Everyone is after the office (of president), it is not a matter of responsibility," said Ms. Bakir.

Mr. Khaddam on this point agreed with Ms. Bakir saying that eight of the committee members are new in the field.

"They sky-rocketed from the base of the pyramid to its peak," he said.

According to Mr. Khaddam, he has already begun work in his new post and convened a meeting last Monday. He added that Ms. Bakir was absent from the meeting.

Ms. Bakir said she has referred the matter of her presidency to the ATWU general assembly. "I am waiting to see what happens, but I cannot continue in such a situation in a union which cannot agree on anything. I will eventually resign, but after I make myself clear."

Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1994

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Single standard for all

THE STANDOFF between North Korea, on the one hand, and Washington and its allies in the U.N. Security Council on the other, over Pyongyang's refusal to accept inspection of its nuclear facilities threatens to escalate to ominous proportions when and if the council adopts any sanctions against the Kim Il Sung regime. The tug-of-war between the two sides also highlights the issue of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as per the Non-Proliferation Treaty against the backdrop of double standards in the application of the objectives of the treaty under which the privileged nuclear states sought to prevent other countries from joining their club.

At a time when all states and societies concede that nuclear and thermonuclear arsenals should not be used or even built, certain capitals in the world, notably the permanent members of the Security Council, have aggressively developed their military nuclear capabilities to the maximum. Some nuclear powers possess enough such mass destruction weapons to blow up Earth many times over. The manufacture and testing of nuclear bombs went on also despite of the repeated U.N. General Assembly resolutions and several international treaties that regarded their deployment as constituting crimes against humanity.

Against this backdrop, the heavy-handed attempts by certain permanent members of the Security Council to inspect North Korea's nuclear programme appear lacking at least from a moral point of view. Here in the Middle East, where Israel has been allowed to develop its own nuclear weapons systems without causing as little as a wink by the big powers, there is a vivid vision of the double standards adopted by the West.

It must be remembered that both India and Pakistan were once the subject of a similar campaign which ended up being frustrated simply because the hands of those who were calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons were not exactly clean.

We would like to see the major nuclear powers offer an example to the other countries which still covet the same system of offence or defence. The least that we expect them to do is to renounce the use of such mass destruction weapons before they ask others to forego their manufacture and possession. This is not likely to happen for obvious reasons. Meanwhile the insistence that North Korea or any other country for that matter yield to international inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continues to be morally hollow even though we would want to see nothing less than an end to North Korea's nuclear programme. Pyongyang should seize upon this opportunity not to escape international surveillance but rather to lobby for the application of a single standard in the quest for a nuclear free world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticised the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) except Qatar for siding with the Yemeni Socialist Party, which is trying to secede southern Yemen. Tareq Masarwah said that all of a sudden we find the GCC countries trying to help southern Yemen to end the unity of Yemen and their foreign ministers' statement declaring their countries intention to interfere in the war in Yemen should the fighting continue is a clear indication of the Arab's countries intentions. These threats could be serious but could mean that these countries would not use their own forces or weapons, but would rather finance an operation which could be undertaken by the 70,000 American troops stationed in the Arabian Peninsula since the Gulf crisis, the writer pointed out. He said that the Arab World hopes that nothing of this kind would happen and no Arab or foreign intervention in Yemen would take place, "because war is a costly business that would waste the Arab Nation's wealth." Indeed, he said, war in Yemen is not an easy task for any one, as the difficult environment and terrain in Yemen had proved impossible to control under the Turks, the Egyptian and other countries.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour criticised calls for a government decision to open the door for importing table salt, saying imports of commodities that can be produced locally can by no means be beneficial to the country's economy. Mohammad Daoud said instead the government should stimulate efforts and take various necessary measures to meet the shortages like giving incentives for producers of this basic commodity. The writer said that it is in the best interest of the Kingdom to give a chance to the cooperative society that produces the salt to expand its business and secure more investments in this industry.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

Republicans prepare to run in 1996

THE REPUBLICAN field of presidential candidates is more wide open than it has been in many years. Typically, there is at least one candidate who is considered the early favourite for the nomination. But the Republican Party today is more divided than it has been in 30 years, and even within each faction there is no clear front-runner.

The descent from the dominant Republican coalition which produced victories in six of the past seven presidential elections to the current fractious state has been swift, and the causes lie in the recent history of the party.

No sooner had George Bush lost his 1992 reelection bid than an intense ideological debate developed within the Republican Party. Conservatives argued that Mr. Bush had failed to maintain the pure and powerful conservative message that had manufactured the dominant victories of the Reagan years. Republican moderates countered that the views of voters had changed, and that the rigidity of the conservative message had alienated many women voters, affluent professionals and blue collar workers, that cost the party the election.

And as early as July 1993, several leading Republican personalities had announced the formation of their own political organisations, designed to shape the public debate on political issues and to mobilise voter support for their views.

Contrary to some criticisms, these organisations (founded by such figures as former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp, former Secretary of Education William Bennett, Senator Bob Dole, 1992 presidential candidate Pat Buchanan, and Massachusetts Governor William Weld) were not in and of themselves launching pads for 1996 presidential campaigns. They are platforms for promoting the political vision their respective leaders believe the party must adopt if it is to win back its position of national leadership.

It is true, however, that these organisations do help keep alive the political ambitions of their founders by providing them with regular media attention national visibility on the one hand while developing a base of volunteers, contributors and potential voters.

As the Republicans have come to see President Bill Clinton as vulnerable, the race to succeed him in 1996 is heating up. It is far too early to count Mr. Clinton out for 1996 or to count the Republicans back in. Nevertheless, several Republican leaders have already taken steps to seriously position themselves for the race for the White House.

To secure the Republican nomination to challenge President Clinton in 1996, a candidate must emerge victorious from a grueling national campaign in the Republican primaries. And in order to do that, most political analysts agree that a candidate must meet some basic prerequisites:

— A strong, organised base of supporters who will work and vote for the candidate is absolutely essential.

— The ability to raise the large sums of money needed to run a national campaign will also be crucial, as estimates of the money needed for the first three weeks of the primary season range from \$7-10 million — with a total of \$30 million required to win the nomination.

— A candidate must project a simple, clear and convincing message that will attract the media and provide voters with a compelling alternative to the Clinton programme.

The first three factors must be translated in a win in the primary races in the first states to hold those elections, which by tradition are Iowa and New Hampshire. Such a victory will provide a boost to the candidate's campaign by capturing the attention of the national media, increasing the flow of campaign contributions, and begin the process of securing the delegates who will assure the candidate of the nomination at the party's convention in July.

With these factors in mind, a look at the current list of contenders for the Republican nomination yields the following

early projection of their prospects for 1996.

Senator Robert Dole

Mr. Dole is the minority leader of the U.S. Senate, the most visible and powerful position of any Republican in the United States, and he can use this position to his advantage.

Among his assets are the simple fact that Mr. Dole has run national campaigns before, twice as a serious candidate for his party's nomination for president and once as the Republican nominee for Vice President (in the losing campaign of 1976). He has the greatest name recognition of any Republican and has a proven ability to raise money and build an organisation.

Jack Kemp

In some ways, Jack Kemp is the most interesting of the Republican hopefuls for 1996. He is still a relatively young man and his stature as a former star professional football player makes him appealing to youthful voters, and his overall reputation makes him appealing to African-Americans and blue collar workers — three groups whose votes the Republicans will need in 1996.

To many, Mr. Kemp was the heir-apparent to the Reagan mantle, conservative, charismatic and capable of building a majority coalition. He can raise money and has a loyal national political organisation. But Mr. Kemp's independence and his strong political views have alienated many other party leaders. A Kemp victory would be a decisive one.

James Baker

There are few pundits or party leaders who doubt James Baker's effectiveness as a political manager. He served both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush in several capacities and with the exception of his role in Bush's losing 1992 campaign, he has won positive reviews for his work. But he has recently come under attack from former Vice President Dan Quayle, who wrote that Mr. Baker's role in the Bush administration was overrated.

There is no doubt that Mr. Baker can raise the money to run but there are strong doubts that he can build a large base of supporters for his campaign. He has never run for national office, nor has he articulated the type of political vision on which to base a campaign.

His recognised forte is in foreign affairs — not in the issues that appeal to most voters.

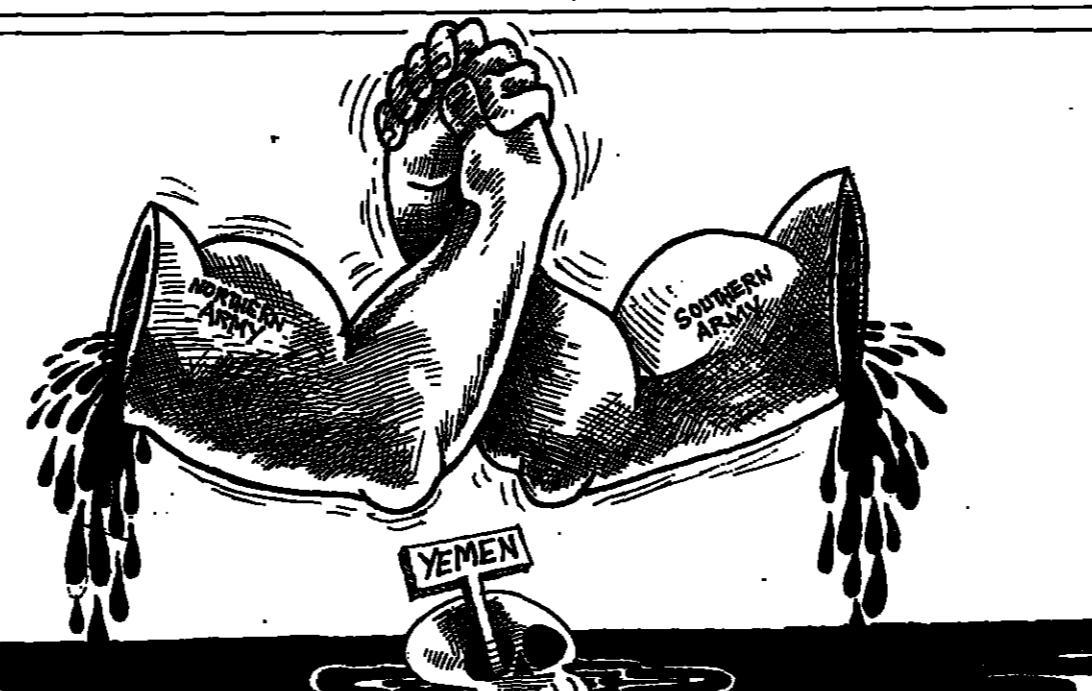
Richard Cheney

Many assess Dick Cheney's chances to be the same as Mr. Baker's. He has good name recognition, a strong record in foreign affairs and of service to a number of Republican presidents; but he has no experience in the type of campaigning that produces a nominee. Although he served in Congress for 12 years and excelled as a cabinet secretary, many doubt that Mr. Cheney has the type of skills required to wage and win a national campaign.

Dan Quayle

While it is always unwise to discount a former vice president who is campaigning for president, Mr. Quayle appears to have too many obstacles to overcome before he could win the nomination. He does have many loyal followers, but the press and a large percentage of the voting public refuse to take him seriously. After being the object of too many public jokes during his four years in office, it is difficult to imagine that Mr. Quayle can reconstruct his public image and mount a successful campaign for president.

M. KAHLIL



China is key to effective sanctions

By Donald M. Rothberg
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — China is the key to effective sanctions against North Korea, a reality that could force the Clinton administration to adopt a painfully cautious strategy for using economic pressure against the Pyongyang regime.

After North Korea prevented international inspectors from determining whether it has diverted plutonium from a nuclear reactor, the United States began pressing for U.N. sanctions.

President Bill Clinton met Saturday with British Prime Minister John Major at Chequers, the government's country estate near London, and said later that North Korea's conduct has made it "virtually imperative" that the United Nations take action on sanctions.

That view was endorsed by South Korea and Japan after a two-day meeting with U.S. officials at the State Department.

But how fast and how effective sanctions would be remained an unanswered question.

"North Korea is so near the subsistence level now that it's very difficult to have sanctions that would have an immediate bite," said Donald Gregg, former U.S. ambassador to South Korea and now

president of the Korea Society. "It's certainly better than pre-emptive (military) strikes."

Mr. Gregg called sanctions "a terribly blunt instrument," and said they could provoke the North Koreans into military action.

North Korea has called sanctions "an act of war" Mr. Clinton strongly disagreed.

"Clearly, any sanctions are not an act of war and should not be seen as such," Mr. Clinton said. "All we want them to do is keep their word."

Now that Mr. Clinton has started the movement towards sanctions, pulling back could be seen as another foreign policy retreat.

"The worst thing would be for the administration right now to start backing away from sanctions," said David Kay, who was one of the principal International Atomic Energy Agency officials involved in the showdown with Iraq over inspection of its nuclear facilities.

There is no doubt about the importance of China to any sanctions strategy. Beijing is sceptical of the effectiveness of sanctions.

"Sanctions have never worked anywhere, anytime, with the possible exception of South Africa," he said.

Mr. Taylor visited North

Korea in April and said that if sanctions are imposed "the tension is going to go up big time," in terms of military danger.

Bruce Cumings, a professor of East Asian history at the University of Chicago and author of a book on the origins of the Korean war, said he doubts North Korea would respond to sanctions by launching a military strike.

"I'm sure they will bark very loudly," he said.

Among the advocates of a tough line against North Korea is James Lilley, a former U.S. ambassador to South Korea and later to China.

"If you appease the North Koreans, they'll take advantage of you," he said during an appearance Friday on Fox News. "What you need is a very strong, unambiguous deterrent. If they turn to force, they will be obliterated."

But Mr. Gregg believes the need for more diplomacy, saying the United States must make clear to Pyongyang "specifically what's in it for them if they wrap up the nuclear option and put it aside."

But the government in Beijing continued to emphasize the need for patient diplomacy.

William Taylor, a senior analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, is sceptical of the effectiveness of sanctions.

"I think it's their hole card and they're not going to put down their hole card unless we call their hand. And we really have never called their hand. We've never told them what it was worth to us to see their hole card," he said.

LETTERS

Mind control

To the Editor:

Rami Khouri's article, "The media, the past and the challenge," (Jordan Times April 19) and British scriptwriter Susan Bennett's response from London (Jordan Times, April 24), have prompted me to reflect on what Mr. Khouri (referring specifically to Jordan Radio and Television (JRTV)) terms a regression in the media "perhaps due to the fears and uncertainties that are associated with a region in the midst of historic change."

In common with Mr. Khouri and Ms. Bennett, my professional life is closely tied to the broadcast media, as are the personal lives of the millions of viewers who believe "that it must be true because we saw it on TV."

Mr. Khouri worries about "mind control," but appreciates that "the media sometimes should go along with government desires on very sensitive issues or relations with foreign donors in times of crisis." Surely it depends on which foreign donors, and what strings are attached to the donations. It is never wise to bite the hand that feeds you, unless that hand has a chain round your neck and shackles on your feet. Then it becomes an issue of mind control plus loss of liberty and democracy.

We are indebted to Ms. Bennett for her concise overview of the development of Britain's TV industry, and Messrs. Nabil Sawalha and Hisham Yanis for "challenging and developing her views." May I respectfully point out, as a fellow scriptwriter and TV producer, having spent the greater part of my adult life in the Middle East; that my memories of the British media, within its historic context, may be rather less simplistic than those of Ms. Bennett, and that her "limited knowledge of Jordanian affairs" would require rather more than a couple of weeks with the Nabil-Hisham Theatre Company to gain anything of value, artistically or otherwise, from her "exposure to other cultures".

Or have I misunderstood, and Ms. Bennett feels that Jordanians (other than Nabil and Hisham) are to harvest the fruit of her "cooperative creation" via Med-Media and Transworld? Surely she cannot believe that Jordanians have never been exposed to other cultures, placed as we have been for umpteen millennia at the gateway between East and West; for the very cradle of civilisation, however quaint that view may be to the "younger, more educated" people of Europe.

Now way back in my childhood when no one left school illiterate; when BBC TV transmitted "live", and BBC Radio produced comedies such as ITMA; the state was turning out "controlled" films as a policy to raise public morale in a Britain which was losing the war. (World War II).

Comedy was used as a counter-propaganda weapon to hide the true facts of a grim situation, and war "fiction" rather than fact was transmitted by all sides in the conflict.

In the fifties, when Ms. Bennett begins her thesis, the political slogans in Britain were "I'm all right Jack", and "You've never had it so good."

A nice piece of P.R. from Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the self-confessed Zionist who had been instrumental in implementing the infamous Balfour Declaration, which secretly handed over British "owned" Palestine to the Zionists as a new "Jewish" homeland, in return for Zionist funds and American involvement in the latter days of the war. (Another nice little P.R. job!).

With millions of Britain's youth lying dead on the battlefields of Europe, North Africa and the Far East, Zionist funds and the Zionist media barons sprang into action. After all, a deal is a deal (secret and unjust thought it may be)!

Britain "won" the war but gradually lost to the Americans an empire which had gathered its raw materials from enslaved nations in order to feed a small island's industries.

It is a fact of life that controlling the media means controlling the people. Money talks and big money talks big. People with a vote but without a radio-T.V. engineering degree are "easy meat" for the propagandists. Its called in large corporations "How to screw the average man."

Professional quality exists but where are the ethics? Since the 1980's Britain's independent "yuppie" TV producers have indeed given the illiterate, unemployed, dole-queue, hopeless British youth, a view of life on the other side of the tracks, interspersed with mindless soap operas, TV violence and sex pops, plus a whole lot of other things which cannot replace a young person's right to a secure job and the dignity of employment.

But now we come to the crux of Ms. Bennett's letter—the "heart of the fruit". She states, "The small independent production companies... could not simply look to the home market for the funds to finance their enterprises... The E.C. with great foresight has provided many sources of funding to enable programme makers to set up coproductions with other countries in Europe."

Nabil and Hisham must surely have told Ms. Bennett about the current situation for most of our local independent production companies. With traditional markets in the Gulf closed, and the Western allies there boycotting any TV production which casts a single Jordanian artiste, the companies, which had invested fortunes in electronic production equipment and studios, now face bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosures and equipment worth one seventh of cost price.

Naturally this does not apply to a comedy theatre which sells tickets direct to the public. That is, to some extent "tax exempt." It has a cast of three and a couple of other employees.

As for our "large monolithic body with many regular employees", JRTV employs in the region of 1,500 staff; all on inadequate salaries, hamstrung by

Peres' Jerusalem letter ignites row

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, forced to go public with a secret letter he wrote eight months ago regarding Jerusalem, rekindled Israel's row with Palestinians over the future of the city on Tuesday.

Israeli politicians opposed to making peace with the Palestine Liberation Organisation had for weeks accused the government of deceiving the public and conceding points to the PLO on Jerusalem.

Israeli commentators said disclosure there had been a letter raised questions of trust.

The letter, to a key peace mediator, promised not to harm Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem.

"Needless to say, we will not hamper their activity; on the contrary, the fulfillment of this important mission is to be encouraged."

Text of Peres' letter

Jerusalem, October 11, 1993

Dear Minister Holst,

I wish to confirm that the Palestinian (sic) institutions of East Jerusalem and the interests and well-being of the Palestinians (sic) of East Jerusalem are of great importance and will be preserved.

Therefore, all the Palestinian (sic) institutions of East Jerusalem, including the economic, social, educational, and cultural, and the hold Christian and Muslim places, are performing an essential task for the Palestinian (sic) population.

Needless to say, we will not hamper their activity; on the contrary, the fulfillment of this important mission is to be encouraged.

Sincerely,
Shimon Peres
Foreign Minister of Israel

deal. Mr. Peres said he wrote the letter to keep the PLO in peace talks.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat sparked a right-wing fury in Israel last month when he said Israel promised him in a letter the PLO would be responsible for Jerusalem's Muslim and Christian holy sites.

The government denied writing Mr. Arafat a letter.

The letter to Mr. Holst says: "All the Palestinian institutions of East Jerusalem, including the economic, social, educational and cultural, and the Holy Christian and Muslim places, are performing an essential task for the Palestinian population.

"Needless to say, we will not hamper their activity."

It was sent in October to the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst recognising the importance of Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem and promising not to hamper their activity.

Mr. Holst helped clinch the September PLO-Israel peace

Mr. Peres, shouting over the hecklers in parliament, pledged that Jerusalem would remain under Israeli sovereignty.

"Our capital will remain united ... it will not be part of autonomy," he said before walking out.

Mr. Netanyahu said he had information from army sources that the government was preparing to release hundreds of prisoners from the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which opposes autonomy and is fighting on against Israel.

Israel has pledged in the autonomy accords to start negotiations on a permanent settlement for the Palestinians, including on the question of Jerusalem, after two years of autonomy.

Mr. Peres said Israel would ensure the Palestinian authority running Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho would not be allowed in Jerusalem, particularly in Palestinian headquarters at the Orient House.

Asked what would happen if Palestinians used Orient House, opened shortly after Middle East peace talks began in 1991, to run autonomy, Mr. Peres was unequivocal.

"Shame on you," added the Likud's former justice minister, Dan Meridor.

"It's Yasser Arafat who told the truth. This letter is not a question of access to the holy sites but the PLO's hold over Jerusalem," he said.

"Our credibility is not at stake," replied Mr. Peres.

"We have given no commitment to the PLO or Arafat. They are not mentioned in this letter."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as well as Mr. Peres had denied such a Jerusalem letter existed.

Cabinet reshuffle

(Continued from page 1)

May 1993.

The sources said the reshuffle, which became imminent Saturday after the government announced it was starting fresh talks with Israel, was meant to strengthen the Cabinet of Dr. Majali at a time when major progress was expected in the peace process and the opposition to the government was growing in Parliament.

According to well informed observers, Dr. Hindawi, a former deputy prime minister and chief of the Royal Court, agreed to join the Cabinet after he was assured he would be given a key role in running internal affairs.

Sources said the Royal Court supported Dr. Majali in his efforts to form a strong government.

Observers said that Dr. Majali was expected to succeed in securing the necessary political strength for his Cabinet in the new reshuffle, noting that the previous change in November of some cabinet members failed to achieve this purpose.

Analysts said the acceptance of Dr. Hindawi to serve in the government gave Dr. Majali the breakthrough he needed to form a politically strong government.

Dr. Hindawi, who refused to join Dr. Majali's Cabinet when it was formed in May and rejected another offer to serve on it in November's reshuffle, was influential in talking deputies into joining the Cabinet, sources said.

The sources said Dr. Hindawi pushed for the inclusion of deputies in the Cabinet because he would not have entered a Cabinet that does not have the necessary power base.

The participation of Dr. Hindawi in the government is extremely important and will strengthen the term of the Cabinet, which was going to change two months ago," said a former official who held a number of key Cabinet portfolios in the past.

The sources said that with Dr. Hindawi playing a major role in running the internal affairs of the government, Dr. Majali will be mainly handling foreign affairs, especially that the peace process is expected to produce fast and substantive progress.

But despite Dr. Hindawi's strength, the local performance of the Cabinet will depend on the composition of its economic team, observers said.

Along with the budget, Mr. Abu Libdeh said the PLO and donors would discuss projects in a technical assistance programme and an emergency rehabilitation programme worked out with the World Bank, totalling together over \$160 million.

Jordan, Israel to form panel

(Continued from page 1)

makes it difficult to delineate or demarcate borders in that area, according to Mr. Peres' opinion.

In a statement to Jordan Television Dr. Anani added that Mr. Peres' statement might have some positive elements because he accepted the concept and principle of border demarcation, "something that we take positively."

The minister added that technical obstacles facing the demarcation of borders should be left to the Jordanian technical experts who are aware of the reasons of the low sea levels resulting from the over-pumping by the Israeli authorities of water from the River Jordan.

Dr. Anani said the timing of Mr. Peres' statements should not be a reason or a justification for postponing the discussion of this subject or (not adhering) to Jordan's rights in defining its share of the Dead Sea water.

Mr. Peres had said that his country hoped to reach "arrangements" with Jordan at the new session in Washington.

But he warned that it would not be easy to draw up a definitive border.

"The Dead Sea is alive and moves all the time," he said. "When you look at map of the region, you never know where the sea stops and the land begins. So the line of the border with Jordan in the area is difficult to establish."

Jordan announced the new Washington talks over the weekend after a halt since the February mosque massacre by an Israeli settler in Hebron.

Jordanian officials said they were prepared to sign an agreement on the border before sealing a full peace treaty.

North Korea categorically refuses special inspections

VIENNA (Agencies) — North Korea "will never" allow inspections of the two nuclear sites which the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) suspects are used to store nuclear material to make weapons, a North Korean diplomat said here Tuesday.

Hans Blix, director general of the IAEA, told the U.N. Security Council last week in New York that inspection of the two sites at Yongbyon would enable the IAEA to verify whether fuel rods meant his agency could never determine if plutonium had been diverted.

Mr. Yun justified his nation's attitude saying its "unique special status," gained when Pyongyang reversed a decision to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty meant it did not need to apply the inspection clause of the treaty, but only submit to specially negotiated inspections.

But North Korean embassy official Yun Ho Jin said: "My delegation cannot but express strong doubt on the technical credibility of some technical officials of the IAEA secretariat."

He was speaking at a press conference during an IAEA board of governors' meeting.

Mr. Yun said the IAEA could measure the 8,000 spent fuel rods which the North Koreans have removed from the nuclear plants to check whether any plutonium had been diverted. The inspection would last "less than several months," he said, contrary to IAEA estimates that the operation would take more than a year.

Mr. Yun said that a year ago leading IAEA officials had said it would be impossible to check the reactor's record without inspecting the two other sites which have not been declared by the North Korean government.

But in May the agency said that if North Korea accepted all the IAEA's proposals concerning the selection and separation of spent fuel rods,

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The Paris meeting, organised by the World Bank, is the fourth major donors' conference since the PLO and Israel sealed a peace deal last year. The others produced pledges of \$2.4 billion for five years of budgeting and projects, including \$720 million in

and donations.

The budget of the self-rule administration, unpopular for donors who like to put money into tangible development projects, is the most important issue at the Paris conference.

Mr. Abu Libdeh said donors have pledged \$100 million for

Yemeni ceasefire is shattered

(Continued from page 1)

Al Attas, named as southern prime minister, told reporters the south would "welcome favourably the deployment of international observers to consolidate the ceasefire."

But Mr. Bassandawa swiftly ruled out foreign intervention, "because we are one country."

The president, meanwhile, said on an inspection tour of a military camp that an end to Yemeni unity, declared in May 1990, was out of the question.

"Without unity, there is no future," he warned, quoted by SABA news agency.

Rockets streaked over frontlines from multi-barrelled launchers manned by southern troops trying to repulse the month-long assault on Aden.

Artillery blasted from southern strongpoints on an arc West, north and northeast of the city in what the southern officers said was a response to northern firing.

Northern shells fell within two kilometres of Aden's main Al Hiswa power station on the shore of Bandar Tawahi Bay between Aden and the industrial Little Aden suburb and were also crashing into Bir Nasser and onto a front to the northeast.

Residents said northern shelling had destroyed the water station at Bir Nasser, disrupting water supplies in the city.

The most intense fighting was on the central front directly north of the city. Northern gunners have been shelling the northern districts of the city

from emplacements erected on the central front in the past three days.

Southern soldiers dug in either side of a road littered with shell casings and ammunition boxes said they were shelling northern troops in Saber, a village which until two days ago they had retaken from an earlier assault by northern troops.

Since the war began on May 4, northern troops have been pushing towards Aden, declared the capital of the southern state which seceded on May 21, ending four years of north-south unity.

Mr. Saber, which is 18 to 20 kilometres north of Aden's outskirts, now appears to have fallen to the north again.

"They are liars. They didn't respect the ceasefire," said Colonel Ali Mohammad Azabi on the outskirts of Bir Nasser, referring to the ceasefire the Sanaa government said it would implement.

From 12 until five it was quiet. And then at five a.m. they started with artillery. They tried to advance and they failed."

Residents of Aden have been quick to stock up on water drawn from wells and buy basic foods like bread, rice and sugar. Pipelines appear to have been stopped in much of the city and telephones work only erratically.

"We will never surrender. We would rather die," said Hussein Ahmad Ali, brandishing an assault rifle near

the ruined synagogue in line

with tradition on the first of each month in the Hebrew calendar — the first of Tamuz falls Thursday.

The site, with a mosaic of King David playing the lute, was discovered on the seashore in 1967 after Israel seized Gaza.

Palestinians said the settlers only visited the site about two or three times a year.

A synagogue at Jericho, the other autonomous area, has been the scene of repeated trouble as hardline Jews have turned up to pray with guns.

The European Union said

on Tuesday it had granted 2.4 million European currency units (\$2.8 million) in humanitarian medical aid for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

The aid will go to supplying medical equipment for clinics and hospitals in both the private and public sector, the European Commission said in a statement.

The aid, which will cover six months, will also help provide technical assistance and an improvement in a quality control system for medicines produced locally, the commission said.

Hostilities renewed in South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Resistance forces clashed in artillery battles with Israeli troops and allied militiamen in South Lebanon Tuesday, security sources said.

They said the hostilities erupted at 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) when Hezbollah guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades and mortar shells on Israel's surrogate South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in southeast Lebanon.

Sources, who requested anonymity, reported no causalities.

What hostilities are to start the process (with donors) treating the Palestinians as suspect. In any court in the world, you are innocent until proven guilty. For us, it seems the

securities and bonds as a tool to control excess liquidity and inflation, Dr. Nabulsi pointed out, adding that Jordan adopted the certificates of deposit system eight months before it was supposed to have started it under the IMF programme.

The relative slump in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) cannot be taken as an indicator of the economy's performance since individuals and institutions motivated by speculative interests are the main players in the bourse, Dr. Nabulsi noted, adding that the stock market cannot be seen as a productive sector contributing to national growth.

The CBJ will continue to maintain restrictions on transfers in order to prevent capital flight, but does not plan any additional regulations, the government said. Such regulations only apply to residents, he added.

Jordan is prepared to face any eventuality resulting from possible negative economic and monetary measures adopted by the Palestinian self-rule authority, including the possible issuance of a Palestinian currency, he said.

The logic in the situation is that any such measure will affect both Jordanians and Palestinians on both sides of the river, and, as such, it is unlikely that Jordan would face any serious problems, whether in terms of capital flight or even the possible dumping of the Jordanian dinar, Dr. Nabulsi said.

"It is not a zero-sum game," where one will lose everything to the benefit of the other, he said, noting that a majority of the Palestinians in the occupied territories maintain their savings in the Jordanian dinar.

Dr. Nabulsi noted that Jordanian commercial banks

have started operating in the occupied lands after a 27-year hiatus and this offers the CBJ direct monitoring of the situation.

Commercial institutions may transfer Jordanian money to the occupied territories as economic development of the area picks up momentum, but the presence of the Jordanian banks is the best means for the CBJ to exercise its options to defend the Kingdom's monetary system, he added.

In any event, "we are well prepared to deal with any eventuality," he said.

The CBJ governor said between JD 350 and JD 400 million remain in circulation in the occupied territories.

There are many solutions to the issue and the best is an integration of the Jordanian and Palestinian currencies as and when the Palestinians issue their own tender, Dr. Nabulsi said.

In the meantime, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has agreed that the self-rule authority in the occupied territories would use the dinar in all their internal official dealings, including salaries and taxes, he said.

Jordan announced the new Washington talks over the weekend after a halt since the February mosque massacre by an Israeli settler in Hebron.

Jordanian officials said they were prepared to sign an agreement on the border before sealing a full peace treaty.

Developed countries use

to a few to reduce the original staff dedicated to the financial management of the fund.

Rwandan rebels try to block government counter-offensive

KIGALI (R) — Heavy mortar battles thundered around the Rwandan capital Tuesday as rebels tried to block a two-day government army counter-offensive.

U.N. officials said fighting was concentrated around Kigali city centre's Meridien Roundabout and Mount Kigali, the highest peak still held by the army despite the rebels gaining a foothold there days ago.

Heavy guns and anti-aircraft fire, much of it pure intimidation, boomed across the largely deserted city.

The more strategic battles appeared to be south and north of the capital with government troops clearly determined to limit gains of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) rebels.

The RPF has gained the upper hand in Kigali in two months of renewed civil war ignited by the assassination of President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6. Massacres largely blamed on his fellow-Hutu tribesmen, have taken an estimated 500,000 lives, most of the victims minority Tutsis.

U.N. officials said there was heavy fighting in a village near the southern town of Kabgayi, captured by rebels last week. The fall of Kabgayi threatened the nearby government base of Gitarama 40 miles (25 km) south of Kigali. Hundreds of thousands of people from the majority Hutu tribe have sheltered there, fearing the advances of the mainly Tutsi RPF.

Government forces had also pushed down from the northern garrison town of Rubengati in an attempt to force the RPF off two strongholds it holds on the road to Kigali, they added.

The rebels seem to have contained the government push, the U.N. official added.

The military situation has not really changed. The initiative is still with the RPF de-

spite government claims of success," one U.N. official told Reuters.

The officials said the RPF was still some three kilometres south of the town of Gitarama, where Rwanda's interim government fled last month.

UNAMIR military spokesman Major Jean-Guy Planté said government forces launched a counter-attack Saturday night and were concentrating on repulsing RPF rebels from the main route south of Kigali.

But speaking in the rebel-held town of Kabuga 16 kilometres east of Kigali, RPF military commander Major-General Paul Kagame said government counter-attacks had been repulsed and the RPF still held on its positions.

He said rebel forces were still surrounding Gitarama from many directions but declined to say whether the RPF wanted to seize it before Kigali, saying: "That remains my secret."

In a surprising development, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, widely regarded to be the RPF's main backer, angrily censured them for refusing to accept a ceasefire.

In his first public attack on the RPF, Mr. Museveni told a news conference Monday night the rebels were being unrealistic because they did not have the capacity to win the civil war.

"I have advised them time and again to agree to a ceasefire since the international community has promised a tribunal to try those responsible for the genocide and I do not understand why they insist on fighting," Mr. Museveni said.

"They are making a mistake by continuing to fight. They do not have the equipment to win a quick war," he added.

The letter also cited the killing recently of a missionary named Father Joachim Valla-majo in the northern rebel-



Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) members carry weapons and ammunition on the Gitarama front-line near Nyamza (AFP)

Africa, in a letter to Mr. Kagame, cited several incidents of alleged abuses by RPF soldiers. In one incident last week international television networks showed news video of a young rebel officer shooting dead at close range wounded government soldiers who had surrendered.

The letter also cited the killing recently of a missionary named Father Joachim Valla-majo in the northern rebel-held town of Byumba. Other Catholic sources have also reported that the RPF killed two priests at a village called Nyinawimana.

Human Rights Watch/Africa demands that you assure complete protection to all the people within zones controlled by the RPF, including those who are trying to leave these zones to take refuge elsewhere," the letter said.

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Early Monday, less than 12 hours after the official Xinhua News Agency trumpeted China's lease of five more Soviet-era Tupolev-154 jetliners from Russia, a TU-154 exploded in mid-air and crashed outside Xian, a major tourism centre in west-central China.

All 160 people on China Northwest Flight 2303 died, including a family of four from Italy, two Britons, two Americans and a Swiss.

However, according to Chinese aviation sources, the accident may have been caused by the failure of the automatic pilot, causing the plane to lose altitude too rapidly.

The Xinhua correspondent in Xian said the pilot had indicated vibrations in the wings a few minutes before the crash.

An airline spokesman, speaking from Xian, emphasized that the pilot "had not committed any mistake" in Monday's crash.

The English-language official newspaper China Daily, meanwhile, reported that three eyewitnesses said they heard "two loud explosions in the clouds and then saw a fireball crashing to the ground."

A spokesman for the government of Shaanxi province said the two explosions were caused by the "breakup of the flight deck" but denied there had been a fire.

"The aircraft debris and bodies recovered on the ground bore no scorch marks," he said.

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JORDAN TIMES

Sports

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inquiry launched after yachting tragedy

AUCKLAND (AFP) — Three people are missing feared dead after a fierce tropical storm swept through a yacht race resulting in 12 yachts being abandoned, authorities said here Tuesday. A formal marine inquiry will be held into the event, the annual Auckland to Tonga race. National Rescue Coordination Centre spokesman Paul Harrison said Tuesday an intensive search was underway for the 12-metre (40-feet) New Zealand sloops Quartermaster with three people aboard. It was last heard from at 2:00 a.m. Sunday (1400 Saturday GMT) as they were caught in the storm. A partially-inflated liferaft has since been found but there is no sign of the yacht or crew. Harrison said a Norwegian bulk carrier Nomadic Duchess Tuesday rescued five people from another yacht, Walkiwi 2. They included two Britons, Merry Bigden and Shirley Bigden.

Wendlinger goes home to Austria

NICE (AFP) — Karl Wendlinger, who fell into a coma after crashing in practice for the Monaco Grand Prix, returned to Austria Monday after three weeks in a Nice hospital. Professor Dominique Grimaud of Nice's Saint-Roch Hospital said Wendlinger would recuperate better with his family and friends in Innsbruck. But Grimaud did not say how long or whether Wendlinger would make a full recovery.

International ski congress opens

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The 39th International Ski Congress opened Monday with delegates from 64 member countries and a total of 120 nations represented for the week-long meeting. The main order of business involves setting the calendars for the upcoming World Cup seasons and designating the sites for upcoming world championships. Other items on the agenda include whether to absorb snowboarding into the international federation and push for its inclusion as an event at the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. The federation will also be electing officers before adjourning Sunday.

Paper: Bullets, Cap set for new arena

WASHINGTON (R) — The NBA Bullets and the NHL Capitals are headed for a new \$150 million arena in downtown Washington, the Washington Post reported Tuesday. It said unnamed Washington business leaders and the team's owner, Abe Pollin, have worked out final details of a plan to put a glass-fronted, 21,000-seat arena on a city-owned site near a downtown metro subway stop. The two teams now play in the 20-year-old USAir arena in suburban Landover, Maryland, and Pollin has held talks with Maryland officials about building a new arena nearby. USAir arena is also used for Georgetown University basketball games, rock concerts, inaugral balls and other events.

Zelezny tops the bill

REIMS (AFP) — World and Olympic javelin champion Jan Zelezny leads the cast for Wednesday's international athletics meeting here. Over the last few seasons, the rise of Czech Zelezny, who holds the world record with a throw of 95.66m, has coincided with knee problems in Britain's former record holder and 1990 European champion Steve Backley.

GORÉN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH

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WATCH THE RED FLAG

Both vulnerable North deals.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
A K 7 6 5	9 8 4	Q J 10	Q 8 7 3
A 7 6 3	9 8 4	Q J 10	Q 8 7 3
J 10	9 8 4	Q J 10	Q 8 7 3
A 2	10 9 8	9 8 7 6	10 9 8
4 3 2	4 3 2	4 3 2	4 3 2

WEST led.

WEST	EAST	SOUTH	NORTH
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass
2	2 NT	Pass	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Seven of a red flag.

South's line of play would have been correct had five club tricks been required for the contract. Since only four would do, declarer could have manipulated the suit, so as to keep East off lead, thereby preventing a diamond coming through the king.

With the threat to the contract revealed at the very first trick, declarer should have taken a simple pre-emption in the club suit. Instead, South ignored all signs and briskly cashed the three top clubs. When East turned up with a stopper in the suit, the contract could no longer be made.

South's line of play would have been correct had five club tricks been required for the contract. Since only four would do, declarer could have manipulated the suit, so as to keep East off lead, thereby preventing a diamond coming through the king.

After winning the jack of diamonds, declarer should cash the ace of clubs and continue the suit, simply covering any card East produces. West can win the trick cheaply, but can do declarer no harm and nine tricks are a breeze.

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'Ugly' Knicks face Rockets in finals

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Knicks, survivors of two grueling seven-game play-offs, are proudly ugly. The Houston Rockets, well-rested after some quality beat-time, say they can do ugly, too.

There are more similarities than differences between the two teams in the best-of-seven NBA finals starting in Houston Wednesday.

Both are led by seven-foot (2.13 metre), 31-year-old superstar centers — Nigerian Hakeem "the Dream" Olajuwon for Houston and Jamaican-born Patrick Ewing for New York.

Both teams emphasize defense and they both try to play an inside-outside game between their centers and some sneaky outside shooters.

The main difference is style. "We do it ugly," said New York guard John Starks, one of the stars of the Knicks' seventh-game squeaker over the Indiana Pacers to win the Eastern Conference title.

The Knicks grind it out, clog the court, wear the opposition down. They miss shots, shoot the ball away, but make up for it with tenacious rebounding and defense. They never win a game by 20 points, or a playoff series four games to none.

"Maybe that's the way it has to be for this team," Knicks coach Pat Riley has said. "It's always been tough, it's always been harrowing."

It also took New York's seven games to get past their playoff nemesis of previous years, the three-time defending champion but newly Michael Jordan-less Chicago Bulls.

"If we've ever swept anybody or won 4-1, it wouldn't be our

style," said rugged forward Anthony Mason. "We don't want it easy. We thrive on danger."

Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich gave his players some time off to go to the beach in Galveston, Texas, after they dismissed the Utah Jazz in five games to win the Western Conference title last Wednesday.

The Rockets had a full week to wait for the finals. But Tomjanovich says his team has had some of those "ugly" games, too.

"The teams that are here have to play defense," he said. "Games are going to get ugly because you're not going to give up anything easy. That's what playoff basketball is all about."

But when Houston's offense is clicking, it's beautiful.

Olajuwon, the NBA's most valuable player, has all kinds of unstoppable shots and is a clever passer, both inside and out to the "Rocket-launchers."

"Dream's going to do his thing on the inside and when all of us on the outside are on all cylinders, it's going to be rough to beat us," said the maddening bomber of them all, Vernon "Mad Max" Maxwell.

Maxwell starts alongside point guard Kenny Smith, who provides steady leadership but relies on "Mad Max" to pump him up. "I have to be a wild and crazy guy on the floor, that's the way he wants me to play," Maxwell said of Smith.

Maxwell's emotions have gotten him in trouble at times, but then New York's guards have had some emotional lapses, too, as well as less

reliable outside shooting than Houston's.

Starters Derek Harper and Starks, improving steadily after returning from knee surgery, have lost their tempers on occasion. Harper was suspended two games during the Chicago series for fighting.

But the focus of the series is on the big men. Ewing, while statistically outplayed by Olajuwon in their career matchups, like him is an offensive and defensive superstar.

"You look at the centres and that's great for the game, two of the best players in the league going at it," said Tomjanovich. "But I have to remind everybody it's a team game. It isn't going to be Hakeem versus Ewing. It's going to be the Rockets versus the Knicks."

The Knicks, who talk a lot about "heart" and "focus" and even "destiny," feel their difficult journey has helped them. "I think we had a tougher road than Houston," said Starks. "I think

Rafsanjani strikes conciliatory note with West and Arabs

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran's pragmatic President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani struck a conciliatory note with the West and Arab neighbours on Tuesday, stressing once again that his country had no wish to export its Islamic revolution.

Mr. Rafsanjani, who is under increasing pressure at home for his relatively open policies, also denied that his government had abandoned its economic reform programme. In a news conference marked by unusually critical questions from the domestic media, Mr. Rafsanjani, who was elected a year ago for a second five-year term with a substantially reduced majority, denied reports of differences with the country's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"We have worked and struggled together for 30 years... we are always acting in tandem... coordinating," he said.

"We have debates... (but there was) no major discrepancy in our view," he emphasized.

"We are finally unanimous in our ideas and policies."

Mr. Rafsanjani was asked why Iran had not taken any action against Britain, such as cutting diplomatic ties, beyond mutual expulsions of diplomats following Iranian charges that Britain had bugged the Iranian embassy in London.

The question followed several articles in radical and conservative Iranian newspapers demanding a review of ties with Britain.

"We will not benefit from cutting ties with any country."

he said, noting the presence of Iranian students in Britain and the importance of trade with the country.

He responded in a similar vein to questions about why his government was maintaining trade relations with the United States and had allowed U.S. journalists to visit the country at a time when Washington was maintaining its hostility to the Islamic Republic.

He said that Iran had a policy of no diplomatic relations with only two countries — Israel and the United States.

But he argued that economic relations with the U.S. had never been broken. He explained that the Iranian armed forces, for example, would be seriously handicapped if they did not have access to spare parts for the majority of their weapons bought from the United States before the 1979 revolution.

"How would we maintain our Boeings," he said in reference to the U.S.-made fleet of the national carrier Iran Air, also bought before the revolution.

"Are you saying we should not sell oil to the United States," he asked his questioner in a reference to the country's vital oil exports.

Mr. Rafsanjani repeated his statement at a news conference a year ago that relations with Washington could be reconsidered if the United States made a goodwill gesture towards Iran.

Iran broke off relations with Britain in March 1989 following strident British protests at Ayatollah Khomeini's Feb. 14 death sentence on novelist Salman Rushdie, a British citizen, for allegedly blaspheming

tages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran, put by Iran at \$10-\$12 billion but estimated in Washington at some \$4 billion.

"A goodwill gesture would be the release of that money," he said.

"If they act seriously, we will react seriously," he added.

Mr. Rafsanjani confirmed for the first time reports circulating in the region for several years that a deal was done with the United States to help free U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

He said that the then U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar had "told us if you help release the U.S. hostages in Lebanon, they will release your money."

"We have not seen anything," he added.

Mr. Rafsanjani's news conference came three days after Iran marked the fifth anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Islamic republic's founder.

It was attended by more than 100 foreign and Iranian journalists.

"The president said Iran had strong evidence to prove its sovereignty over the islands which control the vital Hormuz Strait.

He also accused the UAE of "lacking a desire" to directly negotiate with Iran over the islands, and warned that taking the case to international tribunals "would lead nowhere."

Mr. Rafsanjani also repeated his warning of last year that the UAE would have to "pass through a sea of blood" to gain control of the islands.

The dispute over the islands erupted again in 1992, after lying dormant from 1971, when the UAE accused Iran of annexing the Arab part of Abu Musa.

Islam. Relations were restored in September 1990, but have remained strained.

Mr. Rafsanjani reiterated Iran's denial of involvement in the assassination of Iranian dissidents abroad. He maintained the killings were "the result of inter-group rivalries."

Disputed islands

Mr. Rafsanjani vowed that Iran would never give up three strategic islands in the Gulf claimed also by the United Arab Emirates, and would deploy all its might to keep them.

Mr. Rafsanjani rejected as "baseless" claims of sovereignty by the UAE over Abu Musa, Greater Tumb and Lesser Tumb in the southern Gulf.

"We will not give up the islands for any price and use all our power to defend them," he vowed. "It does not matter who is behind these baseless claims."

The president said Iran had strong evidence to prove its sovereignty over the islands which control the vital Hormuz Strait.

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UNABATED WAR: A South Yemeni gunner break in fighting on the northern front. Tuesday prepares in Bir Nasser, about 15 kilometers north of the southern capital of Aden, in a snap offensive, killing four people and injuring 40 others (AFP photo).

Nabulsi: No devaluation of dinar, exchange market healthy

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on Tuesday categorically rejected speculation that a devaluation of the Jordanian dinar was in the offing and said it found the present situation in the currency market quite vibrant and healthy.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi, in an informal encounter with the press, also ruled out CBJ intervention in the currency market against complaints that the American dollar was gaining no reason for intervention.

Referring to the recent strength of the American dollar in the local market, Dr. Nabulsi said the gain of the greenback was the direct result of developments in the international money market and the CBJ found no reason for intervention.

If anything, he said, the CBJ saw the activities in the local money market as highly satisfactory and the situation in the market afforded the bank the opportunity to see supply and demand forces at work.

The CBJ has its own parameters to set the daily exchange rates for foreign currencies, but the rates quoted by private moneychangers, and banks reflect the actual worth of the dinar, Dr. Nabulsi said.

"A difference of five to 10 fils between the CBJ-set rates and the rates offered by the exchanges is only fair," Dr. Nabulsi said.

However, the CBJ is keeping a close watch to ensure that banks and exchanges do not exploit the situation.

"We called in the banks and contacted the moneychangers in the first few days when it appeared

"We do not see any reason for any change in the exchange value of the dinar," Dr. Nabulsi affirmed. "For the first time in several decades, the dinar reflects its actual worth. Why should we devalue it?"

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However, the CBJ is keeping a close watch to ensure that banks and exchanges do not exploit the situation.

"We called in the banks and contacted the moneychangers in the first few days when it appeared

that the dollar was gaining in the market," Dr. Nabulsi said. But letting the banks and moneychangers know of the CBJ views did not amount to intervention, he pointed out.

By international standards, government intervention is justified when the difference between the official and parallel market rates exceeds 10 per cent of the value of the currency, a principle that Jordan has followed since the collapse of the dinar in 1988.

In recent years, rates offered by Jordanian private moneychangers have often dipped below the official rates.

Currency dealers said the rate quoted by exchanges on Tuesday for the dollar was 706-707 fils against the CBJ rate of 700-702 fils. However, the exchanges offer was better, given the fact that commercial banks which adopt the CBJ rate also charge commission.

"If one goes by the book and deals with the commercial banks and applies the CBJ rate plus the banks' commission, then the dollar costs 708 fils compared to the 707 fils offered by the exchanges," said a dealer.

Tuesday's rates reflected a six-to-eight fils drop in the value of the dollar in mid-May, when the American currency hit a post-1989 high of 712-714 fils.

Tehran protests arrests in Thailand

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran has protested the arrest of several of its nationals in Thailand for their alleged role in the car-bomb plot against the Israeli embassy in Bangkok, Tehran Radio said Tuesday.

The Thai ambassador in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry late Monday to receive the official protest, it

said. The contact group refers to U.S., European, and Russian diplomats trying to mediate between warring Muslims and Serbs.

On Korea, Mr. Balladur deferred to Mr. Clinton, saying he agreed it was "extremely important" to support non-proliferation of dangerous weapons. "I assured the president of our support for a Security Council resolution," he added.

Tensions with North Korea also were on the agenda.

On the war in Bosnia, the French have taken the lead in trying to push for a settlement. Paris provided about one-fourth of the United Nations peacekeeping force of 27,000 soldiers and has threatened to pull out all of their peacekeepers by winter if a peace plan does not materialize.

Mr. Clinton played down suggestions that he is being pressured by French leaders to push the Muslim-led government for a settlement with Bosnian Serbs.

"I wouldn't characterize it that way," Mr. Clinton said. "All of us want to try to bring an end to the fighting and have a settlement which can lead to a comprehensive resolution."

Authorities in Thailand launched a hunt for two men after they uncovered a gigantic homemade bomb in a truck that had been involved in an accident near the Israeli embassy on March 11.

Palestinian sources said soldiers arrested 40 youths after stones were thrown.

Mr. Sorensen said none of the 116 observers from Norway, Italy and Denmark had been hurt since they were deployed on May 8. However, most had had more than a whiff of teargas.

The paper referred to Israel's May 21 kidnapping of Mustafa Dirani, leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon.

When this "flagrant instance" of violation of international laws met no protest from the West, Israel understood this as a "green light for further crimes," the newspaper said.

In Beirut, a visiting Iranian Foreign Ministry official reiterated Monday that his government knew nothing about the fate of an Israeli airman missing since his plane was shot down over Lebanon eight years ago.

"Iranian officials have declared several times in the past that the Islamic Republic of Iran knows nothing about the fate of this airman. This is still the case," said Mohammad Kazem Khanzadi, an Iranian deputy foreign minister.

"We call upon the other party, Kuwait, to come to Baghdad and discuss all problems between us to achieve an acceptable solution for both sides... and to strengthen Arab solidarity," Mr. Mehdidi told the newspaper.

Iraq has claimed Kuwait is an Iraqi governorate and refused to recognize the U.N. Security Council resolution

that demarcated disputed border areas. Baghdad called the resolution "unfair."

In other comments to Al Dastour, Mr. Mehdidi denied southern Yemeni accusations made Sunday that Iraq was supporting North Yemen in its war with secessionist south Yemeners which erupted May 4. "This is untrue, these are only rumours," said Mr. Mehdidi. "We are solidly against fighting among brethren but we also are in support of the constitutional legitimacy and the unity of Yemen."

Haidar Abu Baker Al Attas, the prime minister of South Yemen's secessionist government, said in Cairo that both Jordan and Iraq were covertly supplying North Yemen's armed forces with "military spare parts." Jordan also denied the charge.

Mr. Mehdidi also said that Iraq's relations with neighbour states Iran and Turkey are on the mend.

"We are in continuous dialogue with them to restore our relations to their natural state, and we hope that these relations will be restored as soon as possible," Mr. Mehdidi said.

"Iranian officials have declared several times in the past that the Islamic Republic of Iran knows nothing about the fate of this airman. This is still the case," said Mohammad Kazem Khanzadi, an Iranian deputy foreign minister.

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— In Gaza City the Palestinian police, picking up where the Israeli army left off, demolished a house on Tuesday put up without a permit in over-crowded Gaza City.

The police called in a bulldozer to raze the single-storey home of Marwan Mahana in the wealthy Rimal quarter.

"When there is a clash going on we want to be a little less on the frontline than we have been," said Bjarni Sorensen, spokesman for the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH).

"It has nothing to do with our security. We don't want anyone to use us as a kind of shield, neither the Israeli Defence Forces nor the Palestinians," Mr. Sorensen said. "What could easily be done if we are too close to the clashes."

Trouble erupted again Tuesday in the occupied city where a Jewish settler slaughtered more than 30 Muslims on Feb. 25 leading to the deployment of the observers in a bid to increase security for Palestinians.

Palestinian sources said soldiers arrested 40 youths after stones were thrown.

Mr. Sorensen said none of the 116 observers from Norway, Italy and Denmark had been hurt since they were deployed on May 8. However, most had had more than a whiff of teargas.

The paper referred to Israel's May 21 kidnapping of Mustafa Dirani, leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon.

When this "flagrant instance" of violation of international laws met no protest from the West, Israel understood this as a "green light for further crimes," the newspaper said.

The TIPH's three-month mandate allows for no police role, only monitoring of events and reporting back. The army put the observers under curfew for a couple of days along with the rest of the population last month after a series of shootings.

Donor countries would meet later this month to review the operation and decide whether or not to renew the mandate. Mr. Sorensen said.

In other developments:

Algeria rounds up 75 suspects

TUNIS (R) — Algerian security forces said on Monday they had arrested 75 suspected members of an underground armed fundamentalist group, the Armed Islamic Movement (MIA).

The 75 men are suspected of having shot dead 27 members of the security forces in various attacks carried out since March 1993 in Algiers and surrounding towns, the official Algerian news agency APS said.

The agency was reporting an official security statement.

APS, monitored in Tunis, said some of those arrested had smuggled arms from abroad with the help of two unnamed foreign nationals.

Others had been told by MIA leader said Mekhloufi, a former army officer, to carry out robberies and use the money to buy "safe" houses where MIA members could hide, APS said.

Muslim militants took to arms after the Algerian army in 1992 cancelled a general election in which the Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

More than 3,600 people, mostly Muslim militants and members of the security forces, have been killed in nearly 2,000 years of civil strife.

In the western town of Oran, a special court on Monday jailed two militants for five and three years respectively on charges of attempting to undermine the security of the state and bearing illegal arms, APS said.

The agency said Lakhdar Naimi and Behimer were members of a cell set up to spy for armed militants.

The special court of Algiers jailed one militant for life and five others to prison terms of between 10 and 20 years on charges of belonging to an armed group and attempted murder, APS said.

The government up the special courts in 1992 to fight Islamists. More than 480 militants have been sentenced to death by ordinary, special and military courts since early 1992.

COLUMN

Indian minister sacked for mid-air flirting

BOMBAY (R) — The chief minister of India